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## **Northwest Houston Academic Centre Newsletter- January 2009**

Elizabeth Jean Brumfield

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# F.Y.I.

Prairie View A&M University  
Northwest Houston Academic Center

## Quest for Black Citizenship Black History Month @ NW Campus

The **John B. Coleman Library** and the **Northwest Campus** invite students to attend a special **Black History** presentation on **February 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.** **Willie J. Alexander**, President and Founder of W.J. Alexander & Associates, will discuss his new book: ***Entering the Promised Land***. Willie first came to prominence as a starting defensive back for the **NFL's former Houston Oilers** from 1971 to 1980. Growing up during the South's last years of legally enforced segregation, Willie witnessed the rise of the Civil Rights Movement which had a lasting impact



**Willie J. Alexander**  
**Feb. 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Northwest Campus**

Atlantic Ocean, to the plantations back to the Civil Rights era and to the present. His research gained new momentum after reading a copy of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1968 speech, "I See the Promised Land"**.

(continued on page 2)



on him. This led to a journey of research from current times to ancient Egypt and the Promised Land; across the Sahara Desert to the west coast of Africa across the

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### Special points of interest:

- Black History Month event features former Houston Oiler, noted author, and business man, Willie J. Alexander, February 18 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the NW Campus and Feb 26th at the Coleman Library in Prairie View
- Women's History Month events include Sisterhood of Writers, March 25th and Quilt Display, March 17th, a reception will be held both days at 6:00 p.m.
- Grant Writing Workshop Feb 21st at 9:30 am. To 2:00 p.m. Call to register: 713-790-7282
- Inauguration Watch at Prairie View

### Inside this issue:

Spirit of Sisterhood—The Word	<b>1/2</b>
Quest for Black Citizenship	<b>1/2</b>
Grant Writing workshop	<b>2</b>
Spirit of Sisterhood—The Arts	<b>3</b>
New Databases/New Services	<b>3</b>
Faculty/Staff/Student/Community Announcements	<b>3</b>
Inauguration Watch	<b>4/5</b>
Academic Calendar	<b>6/7</b>
Editorial /Contact Information	<b>8</b>
Book Review—Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama	<b>8</b>
Check Us Out—New Books @ the Northwest Campus	<b>8</b>

## Reigniting the Spirit of Sisterhood—The Word Women's History Month @NW Campus



Please mark your calendar to attend a special **Women's History Month** event at the Northwest Campus. On **March 26, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.** the John B. Coleman Library will host: **Sisterhood of Writers**. A tribute to African American female writers. Some of the authors presenting their work include: **Nekisha-Michelle Bakre**, radio talk show host and author of ***"Breaking Invisible Chains, Gaining the Confidence to redesign Your Life"***; **Arlether Wilson** author of ***"Rewriting the Script"***; **Kimberley Baker** author of ***"Second Chances"***; **Zandra Bosie** author of ***"Inside the Invisible Box"*** and

(continued on page 2)

## Reigniting the Spirit of Sisterhood—The Word Women's History Month (continued)

**Athelda Ensley** author of *"M" Inent Domain*. This collection of female writers include Poetry, Mystery, Fiction and Non-fiction. **Zandra Bosie** explores tiers of emotion defining the human condition through poetry. **Athelda Ensley** uses Christian elements in her mystery novels. **Kimberley Baker** started her own publishing company because of the obstacles in the publishing industry. **Arlether Wilson**, a Police officer, and abuse advocate takes her readers inside the life of a remarkable little girl who was able to survive what many consider impossible. **Nekisha-Michelle Bakre's** self-help book uses her experiences, intuition, and key life practices to help and challenge others to move beyond complacency and release the fear associated with achieving great success and prosperity.

Each of these amazing women have powerful stories to tell. In the spirit of sisterhood please show your support for these female writers on **March 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.** A reception follows the presentations.



## Quest for Black Citizenship (continued)

While reading the speech he was amazed at the broad scope of subjects Dr. King addressed and the intensity of his words. He noted that much of what was said is still quite relevant to black people's lives today.

The more Willie read the speech he noticed parallels found in the Bible and history. This encouraged him to write *Entering the Promised Land*. Willie

states his book is about "deciphering the true meaning of words as they relate to the history of black people. Once you have read this book, perhaps more than once, you will have what I believe is a true sense of black people's heritage and history. This book is an attempt to cultivate true respect and admiration for the long and turbulent history of African-descended peoples and their struggle against adversity."

*"This book [Entering the Promised Land] should stimulate your thinking and reasoning about history and how it transcends time and relates to our present day".*

Willie J. Alexander's presentation is scheduled for **February 18th at 6:00** at the **NW Campus** and **February 26th at 11:00 a.m.** at the **John B. Coleman Library on the main Prairie View A&M University campus.**

## Grant Writing Workshop @ NW Campus

Raising funds is an investment in the future for any non-profit, or institution. Building a list of funding prospects can help in retaining and acquiring support for your programs and research. Fund-raising is an art as well as a science and there are many resources available to assist in the grant seeking process. The John B. Coleman Library will host a **Grant Writing Workshop, February 21, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

The workshop will help participants identify relevant grant agencies, discuss the differences between foundation grants and government grants, and the components of a grant proposal.

The instructor for the workshop is **Elizabeth Jean Brumfield the Distance Services Librarian**. She will demonstrate various software used to research funding agencies

and will give an overview of the grant writing process. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

**Registration is required.** To register please call **713-790-07282** or email: **ejbrumfield@pvamu.edu**

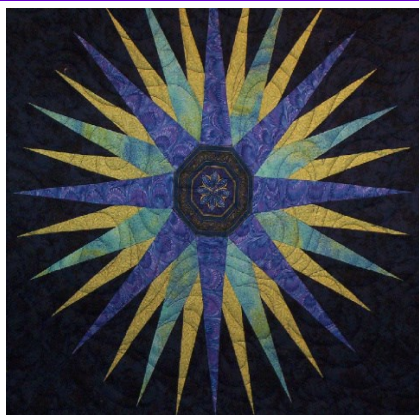
The workshop will be held at the **NW Campus, 16000 Stuebner Airline Road, Suite #130, Spring, TX 77379.**

## Reigniting the Spirit of Sisterhood—The Art Women's History Month @NW Campus

Quilting has long been an art form of expression and one of practicality. There is a rich history associated with quilting. Different stories are told in just about every country, nationality or race about why quilting started and how quilts were used.

Quilting has been linked to slavery and the Underground Railroad. Although some say there is no documentation to prove the association. It was said that Abolitionist used quilts to tell stories, give direction and inform runaway slaves.

Quilts were also sold to finance the freeing of slaves. Women were instrumental in the making of the quilts which is also



**Quilt Exhibit**  
**March 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Northwest Campus**

true today.

On **March 10, 2009 at 6:00** the **Millennium Quilters Association** will exhibit some of their quilts for Women's History Month. Prairie View A&M University's theme: "**Reigniting the Spirit of Sisterhood**" applies to this group of women who design quilts and give them to non-profit agencies so that the agencies can auction the quilts for fund raising.

Please join the Coleman Library and the NW Campus in honoring Women's History Month through the Arts.

## New Library Resources

The John B. Coleman Library has purchased two new databases: SAGE Publications and Haworth Press. The library has access to more than half of the 500 journals published by Sage. Haworth Press has over 200 journals. Students and faculty can access these and other databases by using either their student or faculty ID and password. For students the process of accessing library resources has been made seamless by the creation of a direct link on the J.B. Coleman Library's homepage: <http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/3649.asp>. With more courses being offered online the library decided to explore various ways to

assist students electronically. We are purchasing more online journals, and software including Eres—the online reserve system. The library is also working on ways to promote Information Literacy or library instruction electronically. Currently most library instruction is done face to face, scheduled by faculty for their class or during the *Make Time For Research Workshops* on campus. In the future we hope to be able to offer alternatives through eCourses or the website. Please continue to watch for the coming updates and announcements on library resources.

## Faculty/Staff/Student/Community Announcements

- **New Financial Aid hours at NW Campus:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. –7:00 p.m.  
**Contact:** 713-790-7287
- **The College of Education** with the **Career Placement Center** will sponsor its **29th Annual Teacher Education Job Fair** on **Wednesday, April 8, 2009** from 9am-2pm.
- **Dr. Bernadine Duncan and Dr. Pamela Freeman-Barber** recently published an article : *A Model for Establishing Learning Communities at a HBCU in Graduate Classes*. *Journal of Negro Education*, Summer 2008, Vol. 77 Issue 3, p241-249, 9p
- **Elizabeth Jean Brumfield**, Distance Services Librarian was nominated for **Haworth Press Distance Learning Librarian Award**
- **PVAMU Capital Campaign EXTEND THE VIEW**, raised **\$32.2 million**. A reception will be hosted by the university within the coming months.
- **Prairie View A&M University** is featured in the **ING "Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Continuing to Make History" 2009 calendar**



## January 20, 2009 Presidential Inauguration Watch

Prairie View A&M University hosted a Presidential Inauguration Watch, January 20, 2009. While Washington D.C. had over 1 million people attending the Inauguration speech, Prairie View can boast that our celebration was just as successful with a standing room only crowd of students, staff and faculty. Some office and departments hosted their own events, the John B. Coleman Library was one such department, but for the most part everyone attended the event held in the Student Center. Renee Williams, Equal Opportunity Officer in the Department of Student Affairs and Institutional Relations organized the event.

Barack Obama became America's first black president on January 20, 2009, 200 years to the day that President Abraham Lincoln gave his second Presidential Inauguration speech.

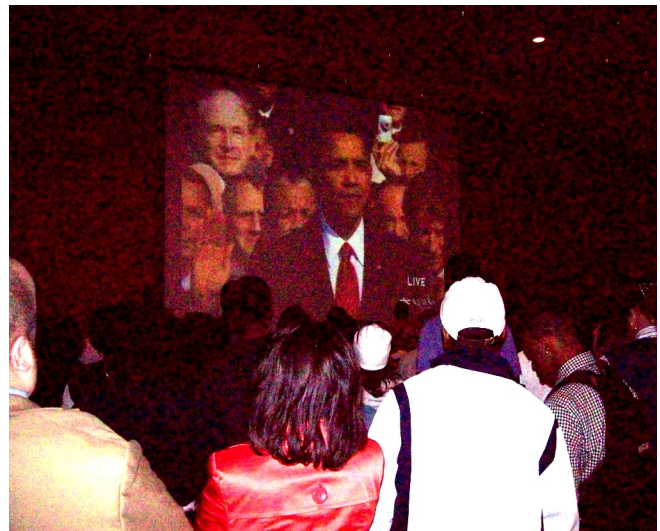


**Barack Obama accepts the position of President January 20, 2009, becoming the first African American President of the United States of America**  
Photo: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/>



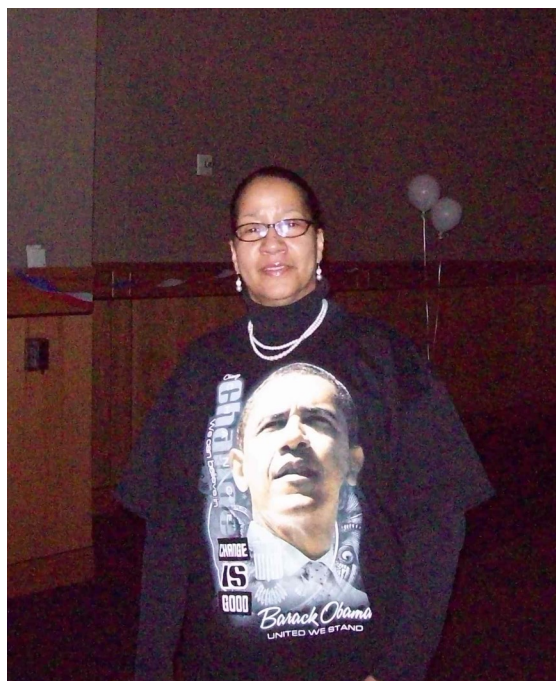
**Dr. E. Johanne Thomas Smith, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs encouraged students to remember and to reflect on the significance of the day.**

President Obama's Inauguration speech stressed cooperation, unity and action. He declared that we must choose "hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord." He said "as the scriptures says the time has come to do away with childish things" it is time to "end petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn-out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics." Barack remarked "that all are equal, all are free and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness."



**Students, faculty and staff watch and listen intently as President Elect Barack Obama stands to accept the Office of President of the United States**

## January 20, 2009 Presidential Inauguration Watch (continued)



**Renee Williams, Equal Opportunity Officer in the Department of Student Affairs and Institutional Relations organized the event**

**Dr. Jones (front) Adjunct, Political Science Department, gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of the President's Cabinet.**



The Inauguration Watch consisted of a brief review of the responsibilities of the Cabinet by Dr. Jones, Adjunct in the Political Science Department, and a summary of the duties and power of the President given by History major, Brandon Jackson. Following the program the attendee watched the live streaming of the Inauguration procession and Obama's speech.

Renee Williams started the program with a personal account of relatives who endured discrimination and racism. Ms. Williams spoke of living in Harlem in the 50's and 60's and while Jim Crow laws were not in effect racism was still prevalent. The election of an African American to the Presidency was something many could not have imagined, so to Ms. Williams and many others this day was especially important.

The spirit in the auditorium was one of enthusiasm, and deep respect for Barack Obama and those who will accompany him as advisers and assistants. From student to faculty there was a shared commonality that seemed to come from the television screen into the room, so that although we were not in Washington we were still encouraged and inspired.



**Dr. E. J. Thomas-Smith speaks at the Prairie View Inauguration Watch**

Elizabeth J Brumfield



## Academic Calendar—Spring-2009

**January 14, Wednesday**

- New Student Orientation
- Check-In University Village – New/Transfer Students
- Check-In University Village - Returning Students

**January 15, Thursday**

Meal Plans Begin

**January 15-16, Thursday-Friday**

- Regular Registration for Returning Students

**January 17, Saturday**

- Regular Registration for Graduate Students

**January 19, Monday**

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day (University Closed)

**January 20, Tuesday**

- Instruction Begins
- Late Registration and Drop/Add Begins

**January 23, Friday**

- Late Registration, Add Courses, Change Major/Certification or any Matriculation Change Ends for Undergraduate Students

**January 24, Saturday**

- Late Registration, Add Courses, Change Major/Certification or any Matriculation Change ends for Graduate Students

**January 29, Thursday**

- General Student Assembly-All Students Attend

**February 4, Wednesday**

- Census Date (12th Class Day)
- Last Day to Withdraw from Course(s) without Record

**February 5, Thursday**

- Withdrawal from courses with record ("W") Begins

**February 6, Friday**

- Graduation Application Deadline for Spring 2009

**February 9 - 14, Monday - Saturday**

- Late Graduation Application Deadline Period for Spring 2009

**February 16, Monday**

- 20th Class Day
- .....

## Academic Calendar—Spring 2009 (continued)

**March 12– 14, Thursday – Saturday**

- Mid-Semester Examination Period

**March 16 - 21, Monday – Saturday**

- Spring Break

**March 17, Tuesday**

- Mid-Semester Grades Due

**March 23, Monday**

- Instruction Resumes

**March 25, Wednesday**

- Founders Day/Honors Convocation

**April 6, Monday**

- Withdrawal from Course(s) with record ("W") Ends
- NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for Summer 2009 and Fall 2009 Graduation

**April 10-11, Friday-Saturday**

- Good Friday/Easter (Student Holiday)

**April 14, Tuesday**

- Priority Registration Begins for Summer/Fall

**May 4, Monday**

- Course Review Day [Classes must convene and instructors will prepare students for Final Exams]

**May 5, Tuesday**

- Course Review Day [Classes must convene and instructors will prepare students for Final Exams]
- Last Class Day for Spring Semester
- Last Day to Withdraw from the University (From All Courses) for the Spring 2009 Semester

**May 6 - 7, Wednesday-Thursday**

- Study Days for Exams

**May 8 – 13, Friday-Wednesday**

- Final Examination Period

**May 13, Wednesday**

- Final Grades due for Graduating Candidates

**May 16, Saturday**

- Commencement



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## Book Review—Dreams From My Father By Barack Obama

Now that Barack Obama is a household name it is hard to imagine that just 10 years ago there was very little written about him. His autobiography was first published in 1995 but didn't become a success until 2004 after his speech at the Democratic Convention. On **February 24, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.** the President of Prairie View A&M University, **Dr. George Wright**, will present a Book Review of Barack's autobiographical book: ***Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*** as part of the Black History programming.

The Theme for Black History this year is “**The Quest for Black Citizenship**” which makes a review of Barack's book even more poignant. The questions of what constitute citizenship comes up when Barack discusses his roots in Kenya, his relationship with his father and his white extended family. It is further played out in his role as a community organizer and lawyer. The fact that the book was originally written as an exploration into black/white community relations is largely overshadowed by the personal reflections. However, the personal accounts mimic so many Americans that his story is one that could almost be told by millions. Almost, because Barack Obama will always have the unique experience of being the first African American elected to the Office of President of the United States.

F.Y.I.

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## Check Us Out—New Books @ Northwest Campus

- ♦ **BECOMING A LIFE COACH: A COMPLETE WORK-BOOK FOR THERAPISTS**  
Author: MARY E. OLK
- ♦ **COGNITIVE THERAPY IN GROUPS**  
Author: MICHAEL L. FREE
- ♦ **HEALING THE TRAUMA OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  
Author: EDWARD S. KUBANYM, et. al.
- ♦ **MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY**  
Editor: SADYE M.L. LOGAN
- ♦ **NEW HORIZONS IN MULTI-CULTURAL COUNSELING**  
Editor: GERALD MONK, et. al.
- ♦ **THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS: TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR MOODS & YOUR LIFE**  
Author: MATTHEW MCKAY, et. al.



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